News release

Ivan sweeps on

Updated 16 September 2004

At 0900 UTC Hurricane Ivan was some 40 miles north-west of Pensacola, Florida, after making landfall at Gulf Shores, Alabama. Maximum sustained winds are now 115 m.p.h. and the storm will continue to weaken as it progresses northwards, but hurricane force winds could spread inland up to 150 miles from the centre of the storm for a time. The National Hurricane Center has withdrawn many of its hurricane warnings, but one does remain in force for an area from the Pearl River to Apalachicola, Florida. It is also advising people to remain in shelters during the calm conditions of the storm centre as the increase in wind will be rapid with little or no warning as the eye passes.

A curfew has been enforced in Mobile, Alabama and the effects of the hurricane are being felt along a 400 mile stretch of coast, with reports of waves 25 feet (7.5 metres) high along the Florida coastline. Heavy rain continues to fall and it is likely that totals could be as close to 15 inches (375 mm) and tornados are also a major threat over the next 24 hours or so.

Latest North America infrared satellite image

The Met Office is a leading centre for hurricane forecasting and works in partnership with other national met. services including the United States to help give the best advice to the public, business and governments.

Currently the Met Office is advising the UK Government as it plans to deal with the consequences of Hurricane Ivan making landfall. Other customers of the Met Office, such as the aviation, insurance and leisure industries, also require up-to-the-minute guidance on the track and intensity of such storms.

Further information can obtained by calling the Hurricane Line on 09003 500450 (calls cost 60p a minute at all times)

More about tropical cyclones

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
University of Wisconsin - Tropical Cyclones
NOAA - National weather Service

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